(v) Under the Export Development Fund scheme Rs. 9.30 crores has been sanctioned for promotion of exports from the North East region. Some of the important projects sanctioned include Pilot project for handloom exports from Nagaland & Arunachal Pradesh. Project for international marketing of North Eastern handicrafts, Project for exports of orchids from Sikkim, 100% Export oriented unit for Hydro-Carbon Free yarn project.

(vi) Development of Land Custom Stations in the North East has also been taken up.

(b) India has border trade agreements with Myanmar and China. India has signed a border trade agreement with Myanmar on 21.1.94. The agreement provide for border trade initially through Moreh (Manipur) and Champhai (Mizoram) and subsequently through any other point to be mutually identified. Currently, border trade with Myanmar is being conducted through Moreh only. Recently, India and China have agreed to use Nathula as the Pass for entry and exit of persons, means and transport and commodities engaged in border trade.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

FCV Tobacco

2264. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where Flue Curved Virginia tobacco is grown;

(b) the problems being faced by the tobacco growers and exporters;

(c) the demands of the growers;

(d) the action taken thereon; and

(e) the prospects of tobacco sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Flue Curved Virginia (FCV) tobacco is grown in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) The problems and demands arise primarily from mismatch between demand and supply of tobacco. The Tobacco Board fixes the crop size in accordance with the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and the rules made thereunder keeping in view the domestic and international demand so as to ensure remunerative prices for the growers.

(e) the outlook during 2003 does not appear to be encouraging. The Iraq was, exchange rate fluctuations, relative slow down in the world economy, compensation claims on tobacco companies and anti tobacco campaigns are expected to adeversely impact trade in tobacco.

Activities of APEDA

2265. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of Agricultural Produce Export Development Agency (APEDA);

(b) the schemes of APEDA;

(c) the success achieved by APEDA in its goals;

(d) what more remains to be achieved; and

(e) in what manner the same would be achieved and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The main activities of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) are related to development and promotion for export of Scheduled products under the APEDA Act, 1985.

(b) The schemes of APEDA approved for implementation under the Xth Five Year Plan relate to "Market Development", "Infrastructure Development", "Quality Development", "Research and Development" and "Transport Assistance".

(c) APEDA has achieved the physical and financial targets fixed for various schemes under the IXth Five Year Plan. 48 Agri Export Zones (AEZ) have also been set up in 19 different States with the primary objective of boosting agri exports from the country. Further, four model